



NEWS

From County Supervisor Paul Biane

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Nov. 22, 2005

For more information, contact
Matt Brown, Second District Chief of Staff
(909) 387-4833

County Partners to Uncork Slover Avenue Bottleneck

FONTANA - San Bernardino County will partner with the City of Fontana and Union Pacific Railroad to uncork a traffic bottleneck on Slover Avenue that contributes to increased truck traffic on roads closer to homes, according to an agreement unanimously approved by the Board of Supervisors Tuesday.

The County and Fontana joined up to complete a \$5-million widening project on Slover Avenue more than a year ago, expanding a three-mile stretch from Cherry to Sierra avenues from two to four lanes. However, funding challenges prevented the widening of the section over the railroad tracks near Live Oak Avenue, so it was left with just one lane in each direction.

The City and County are partnering projects with Union Pacific Railroad to widen the narrow section at the tracks to four lanes. The projects, which are expected to cost about \$1.1 million, will include new, up-to-date arms for the railroad crossing and other safety improvements.

"The Slover bottleneck has become a congestion nightmare that needs to be fixed," Second District Supervisor Paul Biane said. "Slover is a major route for truck traffic, but because it's often clogged, those trucks go searching for

alternate routes in more residential areas. This cooperative project will help make Slover a more desirable route for truckers, so they stay off roads like Jurupa Avenue that are closer to homes.”

The County, City and Union Pacific Railroad will evenly split the cost of widening the roadway over the tracks, which is expected to cost about \$854,878. Funds from Measure I - the County’s half-cent transportation tax - will be used to pay the County’s share.

Caltrans has agreed to contribute \$247,682 for the installation of new railroad crossing arms, and the City and County will split the required matching funds of about \$96,321. In addition, the City and County will equally split the cost of widening a short section of Slover Avenue just east of Live Oak Avenue. This is expected to cost about \$234,000.

The County will seek competitive bids for the projects in early 2006.